GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4355
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2007
RESTRUCTURING OF BRAHMAPUTRA BOARD
Sarma Dr. Arun Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.801 dated Dec.06, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Board has since been restructured ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manpower and institutional break-up finalized as well as additional power or autonomy granted to upgrade the board to an effective functional entity;

(d) if not, reasons for the inordinate delay and when it is targeted for execution; and

(e) the salient features of the master plan prepared for flood moderation and river training with outlays, allocation and achievements made so far?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (d) The earlier proposal referred to in reply to Unstarred Question No.801 dated Dec.06, 2004 was for internal restructuring of Brahmaputra Board. The action for restructuring of Brahmaputra Board was initiated in the Ministry and Recruitment Rules for promotion to the posts of Chief Engineers and Assured Career Progression (ACP) cases of Junior Engineers were finalized. As regards Cadre Review proposal, it is proposed to restructure the Brahmaputra Board by an amendment of the existing Brahmaputra Board, Act, 1980. A proposal for amendment of the said Act is under formulation in consultation with the concerned Ministries/ Departments and authorities/ agencies.

Thereafter, a bill seeking amendment of the Act will be brought up before the Parliament. After the said bill has been passed, the amended Act will be notified in the official Gazette and the Board will be restructured accordingly. As this is a time consuming process, the target for execution of the provisions of the amended Act will depend on the final passing of the Bill by the Parliament.

(e) In the Master Plan prepared by Brahmaputra Board, detailed studies of the river system of the basin, hydro-meteorology, analysis of hydrological data, geology, climate, socioeconomic status, population (human & livestock), urban development, forests, industries and transport, food and its impact and overall water resource development are carried out and different measures for control of flood and bank erosion and improvement of drainage giving due regard to other beneficial purposes are recommended. The recommendations consist of structural as well as non-structural measures. The structural measures include short term as well long term measures .

The Board has taken up execution of the schemes for flood moderation and river training works recommended in the Master plans. These include Harang Drainage Development Scheme, Protection of Majuli Islands, Avulsion of Brahmaputra at Dholla Hatighuli, Barbhag Drainage Development Scheme and Pagladiya Dam project. An outlay of Rs. 646.12 crores was provided during X th plan, against which, an amount of Rs.74.80 crores was spent on these projects.

The achievements made so far include execution of Anti-erosion schemes, Embankments, Drainage Development Schemes, setting up of North Eastern Hydraulic and Allied Research Institute (NEHARI), carrying out of Geo- morphological and allied studies of the river Brahmaputra etc.